



# Club Newsletter

**June 2011**

## ***Welcome to all,***

The changing of the seasons has brought with it some of the best fishing that we have experienced for some time. Looking at reports from the sunshine coast to the gold coast our expected run of winter species has turned up fighting fit and ready to play.

The week before last I slipped a water bottle and some flies into my backpack and walked the mangrove lined tracks of some of our local creeks. To sit quietly and observe the activity of the waterways is something special in my books. Although the main run of greasy prawns has run its course, there were plenty of small bait size specimens moving in and around the mangrove systems. Schools of small bait fish were looking for shelter as the resident fish population enjoyed the smorgasbord on offer. When preparing for a recent fishing clinic with the "Camp Quality Children" I took the canoe down to the local creek only to find that a few throws of the cast net from the boat ramp area yielded more than enough small bait size prawns to keep our keen participants baited up for the day.

The extreme condition experienced in the first part of the year seem to have paved the way for ideal conditions the likes of which we haven't seen for many years. As they say, "It's an ill wind that blows no good".

Reports coming in from our club members are reflective of the many and diverse fly fishing activities that are available on the calendar.

- ✚ Our good friends in Darwin again hosted a crew from our club to experience their great hospitality and top shelf fishing at their annual fresh water event and a trip to Channel Point.
- ✚ A very successful two day casting weekend was held on the Gold Coast. Instruction on the weekend was in the capable hands of John Water (Australian National Grand Casting Champion), Jon Burgess, Paul Goodey and Shaun Ash (FFFCCI Instructors). Also Steve Hoagland who is the partner and Australian manager of "Great Bay Rod Co" who sponsored the weekend was present to show some of the latest technology in rods, lines and equipment.
- ✚ Some personal achievements ticked off by Peter Nolan and Paul Goodey in their chase to boat an elusive tuna.
- ✚ Reports from Vince and Andrew on the trevally, tarpon, salmon and tailor from the Broadwater area.
- ✚ Some classic articles submitted on a variety of locations that make great reading.

More on all these stories later in the newsletter.

Just a reminder that the closed season on Australian Bass commenced on the 1st June and will remain in place till the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. During the closed season anglers can

continue to fish for Australian bass in the 22 dams and waterways listed on [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23 for further information.

While on the subject of protection of our precious fish stocks I would like to reinforce the subject of closed waters and the value of ensuring these locations are managed in accordance with the prescribed legislation.

With the flows of water that we have seen in recent times there have been reports of people fishing in closed areas, in particular those locations where there are weirs and barrages designed to hold the flow of the water course. In the web site listed above you will find a list of the compliance issues required to be met if people wish to fish these locations. If intending to fish any of these locations please take a second to familiarise with the regulations pertaining to these areas.

Some of the reasons that we have closed waters (regulated waters) are to prevent people fishing in certain areas for the reasons listed below:

- ✚ Where a population of endangered or threatened species live.
- ✚ Where fish congregate or get trapped near artificial barriers and hence susceptible to overfishing.
- ✚ Where fish congregate during or before spawning.
- ✚ To enable successful migration of fish through fish ways.
- ✚ To separate incompatible uses, e.g. fishing from bathing areas.

If you become aware of breaches of the provisions that have been established to protect our fish stocks, please take the opportunity to play a proactive role in protecting our fisheries resources.

If you suspect any illegal fishing activities are taking place you can contact the 24 hour, toll free **"Fishwatch Hotline"** on **1800017116**.

This number is not to be used for general enquiries.



Jeff Christoffel

### ***Club Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011***



**The May Club Meeting**

The meeting was well attended with 18 members and visitor in attendance. It was great to see Bev at the meeting and welcome to Jim and Michelle Williams who took up family membership with our club. Welcome aboard.

Points of discussion:

- ✚ Planning for the fly casting weekend set down for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of June. Report by Tom Boylan our events coordinator.
- ✚ Discussions on the "Inskip Challenge" with a possible date change to a date in June.
- ✚ Planning for the "Trout Gear in the Salt" outing on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June.
- ✚ Reports of the fishing adventures and excursions of club members present.

The meeting then adjourned for a short break and the selling of the raffle tickets. Following the drawing of the raffle prizes the meeting moved into a very informative discussion and demonstration on flyline facilitated by Paul Goodey.



**Paul up to his arm pits in fly lines and questions from members**

With constant changes in the market place and the choices as many as fleas on a dog's back the discussion proved beneficial to all in attendance. Paul and Mark also set out to demonstrate the correct technique when loading a fly rod while playing fish. Using a set of weighing scales and varying the angle of the rod to apply pressure to the line the results were there for all to see.

The value of group discussions has served the purpose of bringing many valuable and interesting pieces of information to the surface and value added in assisting all of the club members at all levels of experience to grow their fly fishing enjoyment.

Thanks to Paul and Mark and particularly all of the members who took the opportunity to share their knowledge on the subject.



## **Flyfishing on the Gold Coast**

Some little time ago our club was approached by Steve Hoagland proprietor of Derek McKenzie Outdoors, distributors of Great Bay fly rods and reels, Monic fly lines and a range of flyfishing and fly tying accessories.

He had teamed up with John Waters, Australian fly-casting grand champion and developed a concept to promote flyfishing throughout Australia. Starting with the larger regional centres and in conjunction with local fishing clubs or interested groups conduct low cost casting tuition for beginner to advanced levels and help the clubs develop ongoing fostering of the participants.

Because of our past association through the conventions Steve elected to launch the programme with our help on the Gold coast.

The event would be held over Saturday and Sunday, Saturday would be for private lessons at a fee of \$75.00 and Sunday more of a family day for \$15.00 per participant. We booked the Gold Coast Rugby Club and promoted the event through the fishing forums, Bush "N" Beach and Qld. Fishing Monthly periodicals.

The response was excellent and we soon had all spaces filled with people travelling from as far away as Townsville and Northern NSW.

A week before the event I returned from a Noosa holiday to the message that the Gold Coast Rugby Club could not accommodate us. Oh the anguish, of all the sporting associations the Rugby clubs are the only ones that boast sufficient funds to support their own oval and clubhouse, essential ingredients for our function. A little searching brought to light the Colleges Rugby Club who could and would accommodate us. It was now just a simple matter of alerting people to the address change.

John Waters certainly showed his champion class and it was a pleasure to watch and listen to him and all who were privy to his tutoring expanded their abilities markedly. Ably assisted by Shaun Ash, Jon Burgess, and Paul Goodey, all of whom are qualified FFFCCI instructors. All attendees improved their casting talents, enjoyed one of Denis Shaw's memorable BBQs and a great social occasion. I think that six of our visitors expressed an interest in joining our club.

Upon Closure Steve Hoagland drew names from a bucket awarding prizes from full Great Bay outfits to \$50 vouchers, a most generous contribution.

Speaking with Steve and John after the event they were sufficiently encouraged to pursue the fly-casting clinic concept further with the next probably to be held in Sydney.



We are grateful to have had the opportunity of participating and proud to have been the launching pad for this exciting national venture and wish them every future success.

It would not be complete without mentioning the Colleges Rugby Club who opened their facilities, bar, BBQ and clubhouse for our comfort. At little notice they provided everything we needed for a successful event and we really appreciate their assistance.



Tom Boylan

### ***At last! - My first Longtail***

Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mark and I at 6am from Cleveland Point boat ramp set out to chase tuna. The first two hours of looking we saw nothing. Perfect weather with a slight breeze and the sunshine warming our wind chilled faces. We are now 10k south of Bribie Island and Mark spots some birds and bust ups – the chase is on. A really spectacular sight greets us with lots of big Longtail's launching themselves out of the water. I put 3 – 4 casts in all landing really close to fish, nothing happens. I then changed to a bigger fly which Mark gave me and with the next cast, that gratifying slam of the rod bending round, check that my fly line is all safely off the deck and out of the rod tip. Strip strike a few times and really lean in to it and the first long run begins – sheer magic. About an hour later and approximately 2ks from where I first hooked it, we finally landed it – a huge sense of relief and sheer exhilaration all at the same time.



**The smile says it all**

Several times through the fight the fish was boat side and I thought he would be ready for netting, not so, he went off like a torpedo and took me well into the backing 4 – 5 times, he was a relentless fighter that didn't want to give up. The fish weighed 12.5 kgs. My arm was now stuffed so I drove the boat for the rest of the day!!

The rod I used was 10 weight GLX Loomis crosscurrent. The reel was a Sage 6010; fly line was a RIO Saltwater-II; 20lb Fluoro Carbon Tippet and the fly was a 2/0 pink candy. During the fight I used low rod angles, my body weight and pulled till I was convinced something was going to snap.

When the fish went deep and circling near the boat, Mark drove the boat away slowly changing the angle of the fly line to enable me to use low rod angles. I definitely felt that an 11 or 12 weight would have put more hurt on the fish and shortened the fight. I have since started to get an 11 and 12 weight set up for when the big fish show again. I started with this gem of a reel purchased through the Salt Water Forum, an ABEL Super12X.

In my opinion tuna fishing is absolutely addictive and great fun and a Longtail is more fun than a Mac. I can fully understand why so many of our members hold this fish in such high esteem. Thanks Mark for a great day.

Cheers,



Paul Goodey

## **“But Wait, More Tuna Madness”**

### ***The beginning of an addiction***

I am writing this article from my room in the Belmont Psychiatric Hospital where they treat addictions quite regularly. They claim that I am a “voluntary patient” but after I had been tuna fishing and couldn’t stop talking about it, my family finally cracked and two guys in white coats turned up to take me away. I find this difficult to comprehend as “voluntary”, but nevertheless here I am.

I blame Jon Burgess for the whole thing. I stupidly asked him if there were any decent tuna fishing boats leaving from the Gold Coast. He said there weren’t but however the only one to try was a friend of his, Gavin Platz, who works out of the North Coast through his business, called “Tie ‘N’ Fly”. I got on to Gavin and arranged to go away with him on Good Friday. I managed to get two layabouts from work who had never fished in their lives to come along because the boat cost \$800.00 for the day or \$400.00 roughly for a half day. In retrospect the perfect number on the boat is two. Because neither of these others had fished, Gavin was able to supply them with a spin reel and rod which he quietly told me was a bit like shooting fish in a barrel. The real expertise is with the fly.

I had a fantastic day on Good Friday. I had no idea how many heathens and infidels there were in Australia until I looked at the number of people lined up at the boat ramp at Mooloolaba where Gavin leaves from. You would think they would all be in church, but there were thousands of them lined up at 6.15am in the morning, though luckily Gav already had his boat out. We had a fantastic day catching a couple of fish between us. I caught one on the fly which was good. Gavin is a particularly good teacher and is able to rectify a number of your casting defects (which I have). He is also sufficiently good to get these other two layabouts I was with to catch a fish between them. He is interesting because he is able to work out where the fish are by following the birds and the way he explains it, it sounds simple though I suspect it’s not. We adopted the rule of keeping what we’d eat which was really one fish between us and letting the rest go. Gav also filleted it, which I thought was very kind of him given I wouldn’t have had a clue how to fillet a fish that big. The fish we caught was a conventional Mac tuna and not the Longtail (which I’ll come back to later).

The strangest thing happened though when we were coming back into the boat ramp at Mooloolaba. A vision appeared in front of me of some old guy with a long white flowing beard carrying a SAGE XI3 10wt fly rod and wearing a pair of crocs. The vision told me that I had to go out again the next day on Easter Saturday and that Gav had half a day available if I asked. Feeling a bit like St Paul on the road to

Damascus I figured when a "vision" appears and tells you to do something, you do it. It turned out Gav did only have a half day available and I went out with him on my own. I asked the "vision" what his name was and he said he was called 'God' but most people called him 'G'. He said he'd actually created tuna for the purposes of people like us catching them. I thought this was commendable.

The next day was even better because it was a one on one session. Gavin is a particularly good teacher and can rectify any one of a number of defects you have. There is no doubt that tuna fishing is not easy. You need to be able to cast long and reasonably accurately at the same time managing to balance yourself on a boat which is rocking and bopping in the waves. I think the best way to practice would be to get on a skateboard and go hooning through the city mall at the same time trying to cast your line through the front door of a jeweller's shop. If you can do that, I suspect you can catch salt water fish like tuna. He also has the knack of finding the fish. I suspect it's a sort of a blessing or gift that he was given as a child. 'G' told me that if you look carefully at pictures of JC (his son), when he did the 40 fishes and 40 loaves trick, you actually see one of Gavin's long distant relatives on his right-hand side. The other guy with him was a fellow named Goldstein, who ended up somewhere on the Gold Coast running a bread shop. Apparently they wrote it up as a miracle because they had a fishing competition on the next day against the Romans and didn't want them to know that Gav's relative was about. 'G' said that the real miracle was that they won the competition and didn't get nailed up for it. Gav certainly has a knack for spotting fish. The half day was well worth it in the sense that I got a lot out of it, although didn't catch a Longtail at that stage.

The trouble started when I got to the shore line and there were a couple of dudes in white coats my family had set up. Initially, I had trouble getting the doctors to understand what I was trying to explain to them but the guy in the room next door to me (who has a problem with brown trout fishing in the south island of New Zealand) got hold of a copy of a movie called "The Great Escape". After watching this for a while we worked out how to get out and once we achieved that I met up with Gavin again last week for another half day. At this stage I took one of the younger women from my office group with me because the other two layabouts couldn't be bothered. She turned out to be a much better fisherman than them, although she insisted on using the spin reel. She actually caught about 4 fish and apparently hadn't been fishing since her father had taken her as a kid some years ago. I managed, with Gav's assistance, or more importantly direction, to catch a Longtail. This was an experience because I have never seen a fish fight to the death to the extent that this fish did. I suspect these fish have a language among themselves where they all understand that if you get them in the boat there's a fair chance they will end up in somebody's fridge for a while. This fish was no different, he ended up in the fridge, but it was a hell of a fish.

When I finally get out of this place (and I will), I will go back to doing this sort of fishing with Gavin. It is well worth it and I think for a beginner the only way to go is to take someone like that with you despite the cost. You would not have a clue on your own where to even start. Somebody in the room next door to me has got hold of a movie called "Escape from Alcatraz" so with a bit of luck, I should be out in time for the next meeting. Hopefully, I can get some photographs of the biggest fish I caught to prove that I am not telling fibs like these half-wit doctors up here think I am.



Peter Nolan

For me when February rolls around each year it is time to head south to Tassie for a week of chasing trout. David (a mate from Townsville) and I have been doing this for about the last 15 years or so and for the last 2 years a few others have joined us. Unfortunately Muz and Rick could not come this year due to work commitments so it was a crew of 5, Roger Bassett & Jim Churchley from Darwin, Daryl Harper from Victoria, Dave and I. After great rainfalls all over Australia, Tassie was no different and water levels were high with some lakes at levels not seen for many years.

Considering it was February (i.e. summer) it was cold. Last year was cool, but this year for a lot of the time it was windy and cold and we even got snow. Yes that's right snow in February!! We stayed at Bronte Lagoon in the Kingborough Anglers "Lodge" again and any day you can be 50 metres from a lake edge and wake in the morning and look for fish rising whilst sipping a hot coffee from the rear deck has got to be a good one.



**View from the rear deck of the "Lodge"**

Daryl had arrived earlier on the Friday and had done all of the shopping so when the rest of us arrived into Hobart and grabbed the car all we had to do was drive the couple of hours up to Bronte Lagoon. When we got there the fire was blazing, fridge was full of beer, the wine was sitting near the fire to try and bring it up to room temperature and he had a lamb roast all ready for us. Does not get much better than that!! That evening we solved the problems of the world and sacrificed a few thousand brain cells to the fish gods.

Next morning one of the boys from the KAA, Greg Atkins, took Daryl and Roger out to the Great Lake, while the rest of us went to different lakes to hit the fish. There was a gale blowing and it was snowing with the rain so it was not a great day for fishing. When Daryl and Rog arrived at Great Lake, there were icy waves that looked about six foot high crashing onto the shore. Greg's boat is a four metre tinny so when he suggested it was time to launch, Rog and Daryl were a little hesitant. They ended up moving to another launch site a little more sheltered from the wind and set off on their 'extreme' fishing adventure. Greg had mentioned that that they would see the trout in the waves. There were some monster trout out along the shore; the locals actually call fishing this 'shark fishing' because of the size of the fish. Sadly though, even though they hooked quite a few they had no luck in bringing any to the net. Rog told me later that Greg was right; you could see the fish in the waves and with the water being so clear and cold, when a wave formed it froze above them and they



could see the fish in there. Rog also happened to mentioned that at the same time as seeing the fish in the waves he and Daryl also saw their lives flashing before them!!!



**A calm day on Great Lake!!**



**Pretty difficult getting a cast in here!**

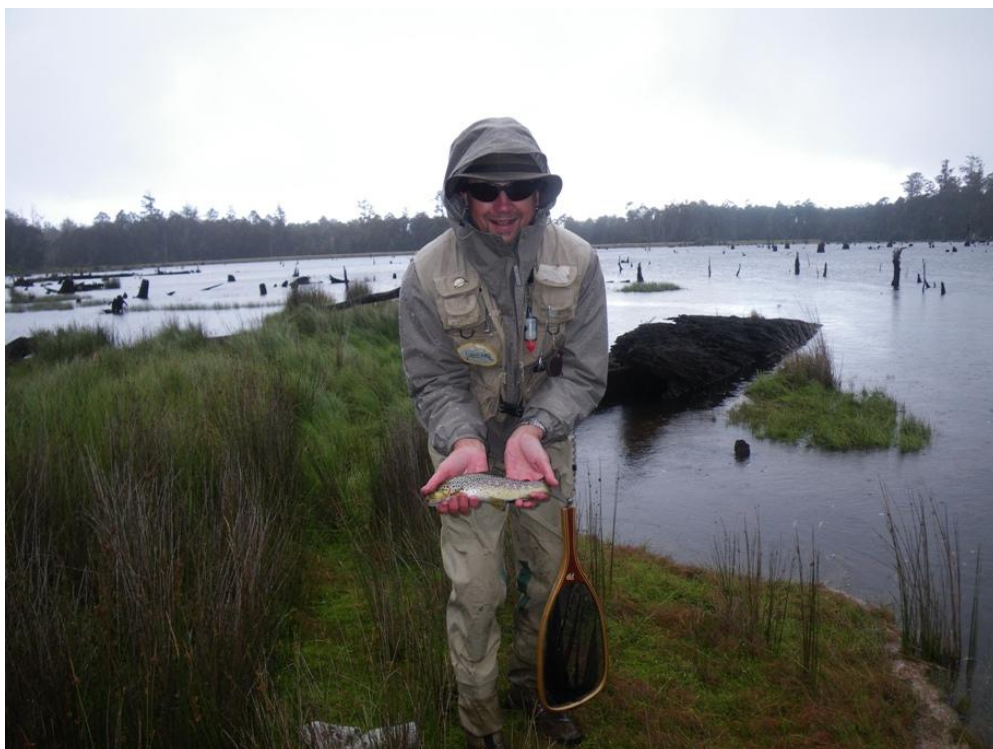
Whilst Rog & Daryl were off "enjoying" the Great Lake, Jim, David and I headed over to Lake King William. It was freezing cold but we all managed a fish or 2 in pretty trying conditions and later in the arvo headed back to the warmth of the lodge and a few beers.



**Brown Trout from Lake King William**

Sunday woke to a freezing cold morning and the wind howling. Everyone decided that bed still looked pretty good so it was a late start for most. A bit of a look around Bronte and no fish showing so after relaxing for most of the morning Dave and I headed off to a little lake about 20 minutes from Bronte. A walk around the edges showed a few fish but no takers so we walked to the other side of the lake to where a stream flows in.

Dave picked up a nice little brown floating a dry down a run. At one stage we took shelter behind some trees to get out of the icy wind only then to have a light snow fall descend upon us. It was about this time we decided that the fire back at the lodge was looking really good.



**A nice little Brown on a miserable day**





**Taking shelter from the wind and snow behind the trees**



**Meanwhile back at Bronte the snow came tumbling down. Did I mention it was cold!!**

Monday morning and freezing cold again. Spent the day between the occasional foray out onto Bronte and the warmth of the fire. Greg took Daryl and I over to Dee Lagoon for a fish. Dee is a beautiful lake and renowned for its large rainbows. Unfortunately they did not want to come out to play in the miserable weather so after a couple of hours we headed back to Bronte. Jim had a fish in one of the bays at Bronte and picked up a couple of nice browns in pretty trying conditions. Wayne Seabrook from KAA had joined us by this stage so plans were made that night to launch an assault on Arthurs Lake on Tuesday. Arthur's water levels had been low for a number of years and in particular Cowpaddock Bay has had very little water in it. As a result of the great rains this area was now almost full and the reports of good fishing had us all anticipating a good day.

Wayne had his boat so the plan was to drop David and me to the other side of the bay and then he and Rog would fish out of the boat down towards the end of the bay



where he would pick us up after we had waded down. Jim and Daryl fished the same side of the lake that we had parked the car. We all spent a great couple of hours picking up some nice fish, including a cracker fish that Dave got out of the bushes right down the end of the bay. Wayne collected us a little later and we all went back to where we had parked the car, started a fire and cooked a few snags for lunch. An amusing 10 minutes or so was spent watching Rog trying to catch a fish that was rising continuously just offshore. Rog was standing in about thigh deep water and every now and again would take another step and get that little bit deeper at which time his voice would go up an octave or two (if you know what I mean).



**An Arthur's Brown**



**Dave with a great Arthur's Lake Brown in prime condition**

After lunch we all headed back to fish for a few more hours with some more nice fish landed by most of us. A stop at the Great Lake Hotel for a couple of beers on the way back finished a great day.





**Daryl landing an Arthurs Lake Brown**



**Lunchtime at Arthur's**

Back at the "Lodge" we all made plans for Wednesday. The weather report had this as a fine day so Dave and I made plans for our walk into one of the lakes in the 19 lagoons. After the 20 k walk in last year with all of us there was no other takers so by about 7.30 Wednesday morning Dave and I were on the road. The walk in takes about an hour and whilst we saw a few fish early once we had arrived at the lake the cloud cover increase to the extent that polaroiding was very difficult. We made the decision to head back to the car early and searched a few other lakes for a couple of fish each.





**Refuelling time after the walk into Lake Flora**

In the meantime Jim and Daryl had been fishing at Hut Bay in Bronte and had picked up a few fish as well. Rog who had been suffering from a cold spent the day rugged up in his sleeping bag trying to fight it off.



**Another Brown into the net**

Thursday dawned a little overcast but slightly warmer and with Deb and Di (David's wife) arriving at Bronte to collect Dave & I at around 5.00 pm we all decided to head over to Little Pine Lagoon around 10.00am as the weather conditions showed promise of a Dun hatch in the offering. The duns finally started surfacing around midday and we all enjoyed getting into the fish for a couple of hours, albeit you had to be in the freezing cold water up to your hips to be able to cast to them rising offshore. Nothing like a dun hatch on Little Pine!! When the girls arrived later that arvo we bid farewell

to Rog, Jim and Daryl with Dave and Di heading to Launceston for a couple of days and Deb & I heading to the West Coast for a few days.

Rog, Jim and Daryl went back to Little Pine on Friday and had another great "hatch" day and got into more fish. Daryl headed home on Friday arvo and whilst Rog was still trying to recover from his cold Jim headed over to Hut Bay in Bronte late on Friday arvo and picked up 5 great fish.



**Rog trying to beat off his cold (which he kindly ended up sharing with everyone!!)**



**Hiding in the Grass**

Another great tip to Tassie made all the more enjoyable with fantastic company, lots of laughs, good food and great fishing. I am not sure what the final tally was for fish for the week but between the five of us we certainly got enough to want to do it all again next year!!



## **Barrington Tops** - Brent Blackwell

Living in the Newcastle region this is the nearest area to fish for trout. For those in the club, this is an outline of the area. This area has a reasonable altitude; snow falls are common in winter. The Tops also influences local weather, many storms form here, then move down the Hunter or to the coast. The area is cool, and damp with regular rainfall.

Access is from Gloucester or Scone. Travelling west from Gloucester, travel by the Gloucester-Scone Road, follow this to the Tops, travel time is around 1.5 hours. Beware; this road is used by timber jinkers. From Scone, head for Gundy, then Moonan Flat and follow the road towards Gloucester. This leads up a very steep rutted road, entering the Tops by the Dingo Gate. Above Moonan Flat, you can travel towards Ellerston, then head up to Tomala, this brings you into the Tops from the northwest, and it is a better road.

The tops are divided by the Scone Road. To the south is National Park. The park frowns on people wander about and has shut down most of the access roads. Also an introduced weed has led to the closure of all fishing in this area except Pol Blue. Pol Blue is a swamp. It is cut by many small gutters; these are often encroached by long grass, making it difficult to fish. This area has small trout, commonly rainbows. I usually fish the north side of Scone Road; much of this area is State Forest. Unlike Queensland, N.S.W. Forests are usually open to the public, when access is restricted; signs are in place to tell why. The campsite at Manning Camp provides a damp area for camping; the flat area at the top is dryer. It also has a pit toilet. The Little Manning River skirts the camp site.



The two rivers I fish are the Little Manning and the Dilgry. The Dilgry is a small stream traversing dense forest. It is cut by two roads providing access. Fish can be caught at both crossings and climb into the stream bed and wade. In future I plan to explore this river further.



The Little Manning can be accessed at several points, at the top; there is about 500m of fairly open water. This can be accessed by driving into a camp area; the road crosses the river here. Lower down it can be fished above and below Manning Camp, just duck under the trees.

Further down, a track will take you down to the valley floor, here the valley opens and the river meanders across farmland. At the eastern end of the tops a road crosses the Little Manning at Dilgry Falls. Travelling further on this road leads to a bear left, this leads to the water gauge. People camp here, there are no facilities. You can fish downstream, to the falls, about 5km's. Upstream opens into farmland. The owner of this property does not mind fishermen. If you see the owners, wander over and say hello. This river contains small rainbows and the occasional brown. The fish here readily take almost any fly, dry or nymph.

If you intend to fish the Tops, obtain the best maps you can, it is an area where bush walkers get lost. The roads are generally in a poor condition. A two wheel drive will get you to some fishing places, but a 4WD with mud tyres is the best choice. The weather can turn quickly and wet clay roads can be impassable. An example of this is a track called Bog Hole. We don't venture here but a group we warned off went anyway. It took them 3 hours to get out of the hole, and they did not get through it. Be prepared for cold, on a summers day it can be 40° plus in Scone and just 20° on the Tops.



### ***Our "H" in Darwin***

I was checking my emails and noticed that there was an email from our good friend Helen Abdy, or "H" as she is known around the traps. Helen is one of those people who leave's a lasting impression on you in a positive way. And very handy on a fly rod I might add for good measure.

Her recent trip to fish with the Darwin Flyrodders in their fresh water outing at Corroboree Billabong was extended by a day or so to have a cast for Milkfish in the

salt. Well contrary to our previous newsletter that had Paul Goodey hand feeding these speedsters slices of toast off the breakfast table, these were the real thing. So much so that H lost flies, leaders, fly lines, heaps of sweat and her placid nature.

After much bruising around the mid section from the rod butt, H's determination won through. Check out the photo and weep. For many of us mere earthlings this is but a dream.



**A rocket on a bread fly, how good is that. Well done "H"**

### ***When the cats away***

Whilst the missus was slumming down in Melbourne for the weekend, my options were limited. The Bribie Tuna on Fly Comp was definitely out....soooooooo...assembled da boys from da hood, and descended on Maroon at sparrow (around 10am).





Flogged the weed edges to foam with beetlespins, blades (clear and solid fins), and weird looking propeller lures I made up the night before.

Not a touch. So we had some lunch on a nice grassy spot next to a green ants nest 😊 and thought a bit more about it. "Hey Dad, why don't you use your fly rod", say the boys.

"Can't hurt I guess", I says with a twinkle in the eye.



Bingo!!!!, of course all spinning rods were thrown away (and with one literally in the water, but that's another story boo-hoo!!) and we practiced fly retrieving 101.



Hard day, only about 4 Bass taken, and then we practiced boat driving up the sticks.



Norm Good

## ***The Cooks Corner***

I missed last month but I will guarantee that this month's dish will more than make up for that. I have been playing around with a chicken casserole recipe that can be cooked in the casserole dish at home, cooked in the camp oven when relaxing at your favourite outdoors location or prepared and preheated as main meal while away fishing.

The meal that I have prepared in this article has been done in the camp oven using heat beads. For a camp oven that is 14 to 15 inches in diameter you will need 28 to 30 heat beads for the cooking process. For a recipe that requires a little more heat around the base, like stews and casseroles I use 22 heat bead under and 8 on top. If I am looking for a more even distribution of heat in the oven when cooking breads and cakes I will go 15 under and 15 on top. Always remember to rotate your camp oven occasionally when using heat beads to ensure you minimise hot spots.

As I mentioned earlier, the process and ingredients are the same whether cooking in the camp oven or in the casserole dish on the stove at home.

## **Ingredients**

- 8 Chicken Drumsticks.
- 3 Middle bacon rasher cut into pieces.
- 2 Garlic cloves crushed or 1 tablespoon bottled crushed garlic.
- 3 Sprigs of fresh thyme or 1 teaspoon of dried bottled thyme.



- 2 Tablespoons of tomato paste.
- ¼ Cup of plain flour. Seasoned with salt and pepper.
- 2 Onions quartered.
- 1 1/2 Cups of chicken stock.
- 1 1/2 Cups of red wine.
- 12 Button Mushrooms. Trimmed and halved.
- ¼ Cup of fresh chopped parsley.



**The ingredients**

## **Method**

- ✚ Regardless if you choose to use the casserole dish at home or the camp oven out camping you need to take time to prepare your heat source and preheat your cooking vessel.



**Allow you heat beads to go mostly ash grey and place oven on to pre heat before cooking.**





**Coat chicken drumsticks in mix of plain flour, salt and pepper.**



Put 2 tablespoons of cooking oil in camp oven or brown in fry pan if using casserole dish. Then place coated chicken drumsticks into preheated oven and brown outside. Do not overcook at this stage. Once drumsticks have browned, remove and set aside.





**Now place bacon, onion and Garlic into camp oven and cook. Stir gently, and do not burn.**



**Leave the onion, garlic and bacon in the camp oven and place the browned chicken drumsticks back in the camp oven or casserole dish.**

Add the wine, chicken stock and thyme and allow to cook for 30 minutes.

Now add the mushrooms, parsley and tomato paste and blend in to the contents gently. Place lid on camp oven or casserole dish and cook for a further 30 minutes.

Check the meal, if the fluids need thickening, in a separate container, mix 1 tablespoon of corn flower with 1 cup of chicken stock and blend into meal. Allow 10 minutes to thicken.



**Add rice and serve**

*Tuck in!!*



Jeff Christoffel

### ***Photo of the Month***



**Andy from the Darwin Flyrodders Club went sailing for the day near Broome**



## **For Sale** (No pun intended)

- ✚ Innovator, full length neoprene waders. "As New Condition". Size small. \$150.00. Contact – **Bob Knott** 07 55983254.

## **Next Month**

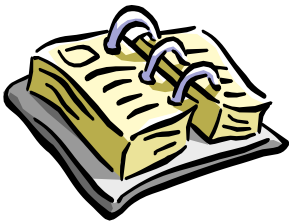
Report on the NT Freshwater Flyfishing Open Competition and a six day trip by a few members to Channel Point in the NT with the crew from DFR.

**Special thanks** to all the people who have contributed to our club newsletter. Your contributions are always welcomed.

## **Quotation for June**

"A prudent person profits from personal experience, a wise one from the experience of others."

**Tight Lines and bent rods!**  
**Jeff**



### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, at 7PM.**  
**Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,**  
**9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

### **NEXT CLUB FISHING TRIP:**

**June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Inskip Interclub Challenge**

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**"Uncle Billys"**

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	Secretary- Paul Goodey	(07) 5575 7724
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